



in focus

USAID/NEPAL'S EDUCATION FOR INCOME GENERATION PROGRAM (2008 to 2012)

Every year, more than 300,000 Nepali youth join the ranks of those looking for work with many either striving to go abroad as unskilled labor or languishing as part of the unproductive workforce. Improved access to employment-focused skills training is extremely crucial given Nepal's low economic growth rate, high and under-employment, and youth bulge, with more than 50 percent of the country's population being under the age of 35. USAID's Education for Income Generation (EIG) program is designed to address this 'exclusion' of disadvantaged youth from education, training and employment and create a more productive workforce.

The program's efforts are focused on areas historically prone to conflict and interethnic tensions and based on the notion that if youth have opportunities for sustainable income, they will be less likely to engage in conflict. EIG offers a package of literacy, technical,

vocational, agricultural productivity, and enterprise training and scholarships for disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16 and 30. Depending on their interest and need, the youth are offered training on one or more of the components.

Opportunities Created, Lives Transformed

The cornerstone of this program is its demand-driven approach - creating training courses that meet labor market needs and linking youth to pre-identified employment opportunities. Income impact assessment data confirms more than 80 percent of EIG graduates have jobs or are self-employed.

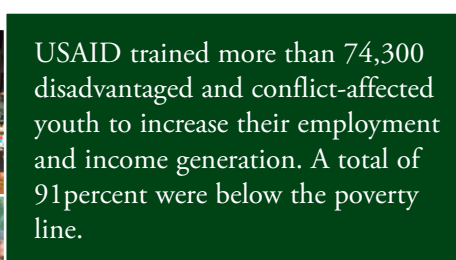
EIG's methods are innovative, scalable, and replicable. USAID collaborated with more than 32 organizations, including the Government of Nepal, leveraging more than \$1.3M. Government representatives were involved in national and district-level advisory and coordination committees such as a district level implementing partner alliance named as District Coordination Committee to provide guidance to the program, help secure additional local resources and synergies and ensure sustainability beyond the end of the program in December.

For many communities, EIG's impacts have been transformative. Beneficiaries and their families now consume more nutritious foods, provide better education for their children, husbands returned home from overseas employment, some have become business owners and employers, and young women, in particular, became empowered and more engaged in community activities.

USAID trained more than 74,300 disadvantaged and conflict-affected youth to increase their employment and income generation. A total of 91 percent were below the poverty line.

In addition to the direct beneficiaries, USAID affected at least 440,000 additional family members – about 11.9 percent of mid-western population – the most conflict affected and one of the poorest regions of Nepal.

Income impact assessment data confirms more than 80 percent of those graduated have jobs or are self-employed. 82 percent of the beneficiaries were women.





As the EIG project comes to a close we can be proud of the legacy they have left behind, namely the men and women whose lives have been changed as a result of the training they received. Can you imagine the sense of accomplishment the beneficiaries of this program must feel, along with increased financial security they now have and described in the brief stories noted below? It is great when you can see tangible positive outcomes for the people in the countries in which we work, and our partnership with EIG certainly has given us a lot to be proud of.....Thanks to all our partners!

Sheila Lutjens, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/Nepal

Education for Income Generation: Photo Testimonials

USAID's Education for Income Generation program's integrated 10-month entrepreneurial literacy course sets people on the path to become entrepreneurs, commercial farmers or employees. It uses a market-driven, value-chain approach to increase income and food sufficiency by linking trained farmers to markets while also training local service providers to provide services and inputs to the farmers. 54,000 graduates of this program are currently benefitting from agriculture production, with beneficiaries seeing their income increase by more than 230 percent. In non-agriculture components, almost 12,000 beneficiaries graduated from EIG's vocational training courses.

Last month photographer Kashish Das Shrestha traveled to Bardiya, Dang and Salyan districts in Western Nepal to document the lives of a few EIG beneficiaries. Presented here is a collection of the stories on the lives transformed by EIG.



Durga Gharti (left) graduated from EIG's Business Literacy Program and Agriculture Productivity Training, while her husband, Balbir Gharti, worked as a migrant labor in a bakery in the Middle East. Soon, Durga was earning as much from the family farm as Balbir was in a foreign land. He returned home to join his wife and work on their farm together. The couple has recently completed building their new concrete house overlooking the farm.



Rina Chaudhary, a former Kamalari (bonded laborer), clutches her EIG literature textbook outside the classroom. She is a graduate of the Business Literacy Program and Agriculture Productivity Training. Once entirely dependent on her husband's income, she now earns enough for the couple to designate half of their income as savings. Rina also takes great pride in being able to now help her 2nd grade daughter with her homework.



Sunita Chaudhary used to work as laborer carrying construction materials. After EIG trainings, she has been working as a mason at construction sites for three years now. Here, she plasters a new hotel building in Ghorahi, Dang.



In Dhakeri, Kohalpur, women have learned to produce essential oils from lemongrass and citronella, which they grow and harvest. The program established over 80 distillation units in four districts of the Midwest. After finding a direct market link through EIG, the women now export these non-timber forest products.



In Kohalpur, Gopal Sunar, a former migrant worker, opted to stay and work in Nepal after training to be an air conditioner repairman. He now owns and operates a rapidly growing business that repairs many other electronics such as refrigerators. Since starting his shop, Mr. Sunar has hired employees and offers training sessions in repairing electronics.



Many members of the Muslim community in western Nepal have also taken advantage of EIG. Ehsan Ali Bagwan is one of them. He took a Motorcycle Mechanic training and now owns and operates a busy bike shop in Nepalgunj, Banke.



Dhan Maya Bista prepares her tools to castrate a goat, a task traditionally performed by male local service providers or veterinarians.



Prem Kumar B.K. was a political victim in his village and had fled to India. Today, upon completing his vocational training, he is a successful metalworker serving a growing local client base and hiring more staff to serve their needs.



Rubi Chaudhary, an EIG Local Service Provider who graduated from the Business Literacy Program and Agriculture Productivity Training, has since expanded her business. With the profit, she purchased a motorcycle, and a piece of land on which she is now building a house.



Tomatoes rest in a basket at a farmer's home, waiting to be carried to a market collection center in Salyan.



At a market collection center setup along a dirt road highway in Salyan, farmers, mostly women, bring in their haul to be weighed and sold. These centers are established with the help of EIG.



On Tuesdays and Fridays, the Kapurkot Agricultural Produce Market Center in Salyan becomes a hub of farmers and buyers as truck loads of fresh local vegetables are bought and sold by predominantly female farmers - beneficiaries of the EIG program.

Public Private Partnership at Work

EIG uses public-private partnerships (PPPs) to help Nepal's most marginalized households earn increased incomes long after the project ends. EIG has formed partnerships between the private sector, other development institutions, and the Government of Nepal (GON) to ensure the impact and sustainability of USAID's investments in Nepal.

EIG first engaged government officials, from the ministry to the village level, during project start-up. These conversations helped develop a feeling of ownership. Officials spoke of EIG as one of their own programs and adopted EIG approaches within other district activities. Strong relationships at the ministerial level, including at the Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Local Development, and Education, facilitated district-based government relationships. Partners there included District Agriculture Development Offices (DADO), District Development Committees (DDC) and Village Development Committees (VDC). Through EIG, USAID also conducted value chain training for government staff to strengthen public sector capacity and

encourage business-friendly environments for agricultural growth. By prioritizing relationships with these agencies and providing them with training, EIG secured support for long-term investment, line agency training, and widespread uptake of EIG activities.

EIG also worked with private sector individuals, including buyers, traders and distributors and linked them to producer beneficiaries and government representatives. The goal was to establish agricultural markets in remote areas and make them work for the poor small holder farmer. EIG laid the groundwork by organizing farmer groups and providing them training. This reduced risk and lessened start-up costs for private businesses. Once organized, trained, and engaged, farmer groups became viable customers for inputs and services.

The Spread Effect in Manikapur Village

Recognizing the potential of EIG's market-based approaches, the Regional Director of Agriculture, the Regional Director of Forestry and the DADO began encouraging the expansion of EIG's market-based

approach to other areas. For example, the Surkhet DADO initiated partnerships with cooperatives and wholesale vegetable markets.

In Manikapur village in Latikoili VDC, the DADO worked with cooperatives and landowners to allow marginalized, landless youth to raise off-season vegetables on unused private and community land. The DADO helped beneficiaries sign contracts with the Manikapur Multipurpose Cooperative to produce off-season vegetables using plastic tunnels. The DADO provided plastic and bamboo for tunnels, while EIG-trained local service providers offered technical support and connected farmers to agrovets who supply inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. The Manikapur Cooperative has assumed some of the growers' risk via a buyback contract with a local vegetable wholesaler in Birendranagar. The farmers earned an average NRs. 30,000 to NRs. 35,000 from two crop cycles on small individual plots. Manikapur is an example of how EIG facilitates PPPs to help disadvantaged rural people access new markets and earn higher incomes.

Nepal Highlighted at the World Food Prize Events

"Over the last three years, working on the ground in 19 countries—from Guatemala to Malawi, Tanzania to Bangladesh—Feed the Future has helped 1.8 million people adopt improved technologies or management practices, growing yields and incomes.

That includes Sushmita Chaudhary, who struggled to eke out a living for her family in Nepal from cereal crops. In 2011, she decided to join a Feed the Future program that taught her about nursery management and crop rotation. She started planting high-value crops like tomatoes and cauliflower and, as a result, she earned seven times her former income and increased yields by eleven-fold.

... These changes may be hard to measure, and they're not necessarily the ones that excite the imagination, but they are the changes that lay the groundwork for sustainable progress.

Development takes time, and food security cannot be achieved overnight. But the facts are in, and it's clear that we're seeing progress from our collective efforts, as reflected in global production, poverty, and nutrition topline indicators."

On October 18, at a keynote address during the weeklong World Food Prize events in Des Moines, Iowa, USAID's Administrator Rajiv Shah released the first progress report and scorecard for Feed the Future, President Obama's global hunger and food security initiative. In his speech, he mentioned one of USAID/Nepal's Flood Recovery Program beneficiaries.

Feed the Future supports country-driven approaches to address the root causes of hunger and poverty and forge long-term solutions to chronic food insecurity and undernutrition. Drawing upon the resources and expertise of agencies across the U.S. Government, this Presidential Initiative is helping countries transform their own agriculture sectors to sustainably grow enough food to feed their people. In 2010, Nepal was named as one of twenty focus countries for the Feed the Future Presidential Initiative.

Read the [full speech](#) here.



Sushmita Chaudhary attending to her crops

Upcoming Events in November

- Close-out Ceremony of USAID's Education for Income Generation Program with a photo exhibition (November 7)
- Health for Life (H4L) Bidders Conference (November 8)
- Launch of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (November 25)

Successful Conviction of Traffickers in Makwanpur District Court:

The Makwanpur District Court convicted three human traffickers and sentenced them to a 20-year imprisonment, each with a fine of NRs. 200,000. USAID's Combatting Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) sub-awardees -- Forum for Protection of People's Rights Nepal and Legal Aid Consultancy Center -- provided counsel and legal aid to the victims, playing a critical role in winning justice for them. The District Judge, Tek Narayan Kunwar, who convicted the three traffickers, was a past participant in the CTIP-supported training on prosecution and adjudication, conducted by the National Judicial Academy. The case is another important milestone in Nepal's anti-trafficking efforts and demonstrates the impact of USAID's CTIP program.

Successful Food Security Program Closes:

USAID's Nepal Flood Recovery Program (NFRP) came to a close this month after more than four years of working to improve incomes and food security for rural households in the Terai and Hills districts. The Feed the Future program, implemented by Fintrac, began as a disaster recovery effort

in the aftermath of the devastating 2007 and 2008 floods, helping flood-affected communities "build back better."

Since the program's beginning, it has enabled more than 12,000 Nepali farmers to increase their net sales by 800 percent, more than tripling household incomes. It has also supported the establishment of 4,500 home gardens that produce fruits and vegetables for home consumption, and trained more than 6,000 people, primarily women, on health and nutrition. This successful program grew out of terrible circumstances. The floods of 2007 and 2008 caused severe damage to the infrastructure, livelihoods, and health of more than 800,000 people. The program piloted several innovative activities, including a voucher program that links agriculture input suppliers with smallholder farmers, allowing farmers to access inputs at an affordable price and increases sales and profits for local small businesses. The program's cost-sharing system ensured farmer buy-in and commitment, paving the way for future agricultural and food security projects. "This program proves that, with a dedicated staff and an integrated approach to fighting hunger and poverty, we can and we will

make lasting improvements to the quality of life for the rural poor," said USAID Mission Director David Atteberry. "This has set the foundation and the standard for future Feed the Future programming in Nepal."

INSIDE USAID/NEPAL



High Spirit Award Tej Maya Gurung

For excellence in supporting all the new members of an expanding program office (as well as the old ones) and her willingness to take on more responsibility.